

VZCZCXRO0592
RR RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #0169 0241853
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 241853Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2160
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0914
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 1462
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 1947
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 2414
RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 2644
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 1600
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0748
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0336
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0244
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 0360
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0796

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 000169

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR WHA/CAR
DRL
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)
TREASURY FOR JEFFREY LEVINE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PKAO](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: OAS ESTIMATES 88 PERCENT OF HAITIAN IDS DISTRIBUTED

REF: A. PAP 0040

[1B](#). PAP 0101

[1C](#). PAP 0142

[11](#). The OAS reported January 23 that it has distributed 2,846,793 or 81 percent of the 3.5 million Haitian ID cards. However, taking into account delayed reporting (most of the OAS figures date from January 18 - 20) the OAS estimated it had actually distributed over 3.1 million or 88 percent of the cards as of January 23. The percentage of cards distributed to each department continues to become more even (reftels). However, the South East still lags behind with 64 percent of cards distributed, as of January 20, while the Nippes leads the way with 93 percent distributed as of January 16. Meanwhile, the OAS has distributed 49,000 or 89 percent of 55,000 ID cards for the violent Port-au-Prince slum Cite Soleil.

[12](#). The OAS has long planned to shut down card distribution January 21 and pass it to the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), which was supposed to take on roughly 400 OAS card distribution workers and continue distribution from the communal electoral bureaus (BEC). However, the CEP never responded to OAS requests for a written agreement to transfer card distribution and hire OAS workers. When the OAS stopped distribution January 21 and 22 according to their plan, CEP members and CEP General Director Jacques Bernard complained that distribution closure had created confusion among registrants trying to pick up their cards. OAS elections chief Elizabeth Spehar responded January 23 that the OAS would retain responsibility for distribution and reopen distribution from the BECs as soon as possible. According to Spehar, distribution will continue from the BECs until February 6.

[13](#). Comment: The OAS is frequently the target of withering criticism from both MINUSTAH and the CEP. The January card distribution stoppage is a recent example of the kinds of

complaints leveled at the OAS by its sometimes adversarial partners. All of the OAS' partners have caused delays with registration and card distribution: the UN failed to equip registration centers quickly in June and July, the CEP and MINUSTAH failed to pick voting centers on time in October, and Digimarc's promised that it could print 500,000 IDs per week when its real capacity was closer to 350,000 per week. Despite frequent setbacks, the OAS' performance contributed admirably to the credibility of the electoral process. It successfully registered over 3.5 million voters and has already distributed close to 90 percent of the cards in an extremely difficult and sometimes hostile environment. End Comment.

CARNEY